Realizing Our Mission

To assure justice, equality, and fairness for all under the law.
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The past year has been one of change and challenge for the Sacramento County Superior Court. Both the Presiding Judge and the Court Executive Officer have changed, yet the challenge of providing justice for all under the rule of law remains.

The change in Presiding Judge was routine as Judge Michael G. Virga completed his two-year term. The change in Court Executive Officer occurred when Jody Patel left our court to take over the position of Regional Administrative Director for the Administrative Office of the Courts Northern/Central Region. Jody had been our court executive for five years and had recently received the Court Executive of the Year award from the Judicial Council. While Jody’s leaving was not routine, it did not come as a complete surprise. Jody’s predecessor, Mike Roddy, had also left us to assume the same position at the AOC. We have managed to handle these changes well, in part because of the solid foundation left for us by preceding Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers.

As we look forward, the court will continue to be a leader in court technology. We are preparing to deploy the California Case Management System (CCMS) in the civil and probate areas. The court has just begun using a statewide accounting system, known as the Court Accounting and Reporting System (CARS). The court was also first in the state to deploy the Court Human Resources Information System (CHRIS) earlier this year.

The transfer of court facilities will continue to be a huge challenge for all courts in the state, not just Sacramento. The AOC has indicated that transfers will be delayed given the poor conditions of many of the facilities and because the counties are not likely to allocate resources to make building improvements in facilities slated for transfer to the state. With a main courthouse in Sacramento that is over 40 years old and five new judgeships to accommodate, facility issues remain a continuing challenge.

One of the priorities established for the next fiscal year is improved customer service. To this end, the court conducted a customer service survey at each of its locations to gauge court users’ level of satisfaction with the court’s efforts to provide access, fairness and timeliness. This data is currently being analyzed and will be utilized to improve customer service.

Another priority is a heightened emphasis on employee development and well-being. The court’s Recognition Committee has been working hard to identify opportunities to enhance employee morale, build a team spirit and provide employees with the tools and training to not just succeed but, hopefully, thrive in this organization.

We would both like to take this opportunity to thank court personnel for their hard work and dedication over the past year. All of our court personnel’s efforts on behalf of the citizens of Sacramento County are appreciated and have allowed us to continue to meet the constant challenge of providing justice for all under the rule of law.

Best regards,

ROLAND L. CANDEE
Presiding Judge

DENNIS B. JONES
Court Executive Officer
VISION STATEMENT

A court that sets the standards that other California courts try to emulate because of:

~ Its unparalleled customer service that complies with the Rules of Court, Local Rules and statutes;

~ Its staff that is knowledgeable, highly motivated and well-informed that continually strives to improve court processes and consistently collaborates with its justice partners;

~ Its creative use of the latest technology to enhance productivity, management information and public access to the court; and,

~ Its financial stability.

MISSION STATEMENT

To assure justice, equality, and fairness for all under the law.
OUR MISSION

Sacramento Superior Court’s mission statement is succinct, yet profound: To assure justice, equality, and fairness for all under the law. For judicial officers and court staff, it is more than a commitment — it is an awesome responsibility with implications that resonate well beyond the courthouse walls. Indeed, the very stability of our community and society hinge on its daily fulfillment.

In a broad sense, justice refers to the proper administration of our laws. “It is the great standing policy of civil society,” wrote Edmund Burke, “and any eminent departure from it, under any circumstances, lies under the suspicion of being no policy at all.” It is a concept that demands the fair, moral, and impartial treatment of all persons. In the context of the judicial branch, justice is Sacramento Superior Court’s obligation to society as a whole to accord all litigants what they actually deserve or merit.

Equality and fairness are related and are necessary aspects of justice. Embodied in the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is the guarantee that “no State shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” The essential purpose of this constitutional doctrine is to ensure that the laws and the government treat all persons alike under the same circumstances. For Sacramento Superior Court that means resolving cases in a manner that guarantees citizens the same rights, privileges, and protections under the law. This even-handed treatment of all persons is the hallmark of a court that internalizes the virtues of impartiality and honesty — a court that is free from prejudice, favoritism, and self-interest. In short, a court that is fair.

Sacramento Superior Court’s mission statement also includes the phrase under the law — a reference to the fundamental principle of American jurisprudence that requires court decisions to be based on law, irrespective of the character of the litigants or any personal bias of its judicial officers. In 1776, John Adams wrote in his Thoughts on Government, “the true idea of a republic is an empire of laws, and not of men.” It is this court’s unyielding application of this principle that protects the citizens from arbitrary and inconsistent decisions in matters or disputes before it.
ONE MISSION; MANY HANDS

Sacramento Superior Court’s mission to assure justice, equality, and fairness for all under the law is not a role reserved exclusively to its judicial officers. It is a *court wide* commitment in which every staff member plays a unique and critical role.

Our mission is carried out not only by the judicial officers, referees, and commissioners who render decisions in their cases, but also by those who work tirelessly “behind the scenes” in tandem so that the court’s mission is not just a goal but a *present reality*. The minds and hands at work at Sacramento Superior Court are many and varied – and all are vital to achieving the mission. From the clerks accepting filings at the front counter, to the administrative staff responsible for scheduling trials, processing payroll, preparing budgets, and maintaining our facilities.

And while courtroom staff are providing clerical and interpretation services and a verbatim record of court proceedings, others are ensuring the availability of qualified jurors, or supporting the court’s mail, photocopying, and distribution needs, or developing, coordinating, and maintaining the court’s computers systems. And the list goes on – over 800 people privileged to serve this court and the public in a meaningful way.

Yet, notwithstanding these many faces is a sense of oneness in purpose in regards to the larger mission – to assure justice, equality, and fairness for all under the law. This mission is our identity – and we are the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento.
The Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 required a major restructuring of the fiscal operations of trial courts. It required courts to assume and integrate many of the fiscal duties and responsibilities previously provided by counties to the courts.

Sacramento Superior Court administers multiple budgets from various funding sources totaling more than $90 million. Approximately $2 million in funding is provided by various grants from both public and private sources. These grants have allowed the court to expand services and offer new ones in the areas of court interpretation, youthful programs and assistance with domestic violence matters, to name a few. In addition, the court receives approximately $15 million from the county to fund court-related programs such as pretrial services and to collect fines, fees and penalties.

The majority of the court’s budget pays for the salaries and benefits of its 800-plus employees. The remaining budget funds operating costs, such as supplies and equipment, court reporting, court interpreters, court-appointed counsel, technology/electronic data processing, court facilities and security. A look back at Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005, showed that Sacramento Superior Court ranked 7th out of the 58 courts in staffing and expenditures.

### FISCAL YEAR 2004 – 2005 POPULATION, STAFFING AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CALIFORNIA TRIAL COURT SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURT</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>TOTAL JUDICIAL OFFICERS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES</th>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>PERCENT OF STATEWIDE COURT BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Los Angeles</td>
<td>10,226,506</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>5,304</td>
<td>680,367,333</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 San Diego</td>
<td>3,051,280</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>199,717,204</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Orange</td>
<td>3,056,865</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>1,616</td>
<td>176,526,599</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Santa Clara</td>
<td>1,759,585</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>112,655,149</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Alameda</td>
<td>1,507,500</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>105,191,419</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Riverside</td>
<td>1,877,000</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>99,293,615</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SACRAMENTO</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,369,855</strong></td>
<td><strong>68</strong></td>
<td><strong>788</strong></td>
<td><strong>86,349,129</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 San Bernardino</td>
<td>1,946,202</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>86,089,785</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Contra Costa</td>
<td>1,020,898</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>56,371,748</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Ventura</td>
<td>813,052</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>49,918,141</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining 48 Courts</td>
<td>10,181,615</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>5,791</td>
<td>617,007,675</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL STATEWIDE (58 COURTS)</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,810,358</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,953</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,359</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,269,487,797</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS, 2006 ANNUAL REPORT.
The Sacramento Superior Court has trial jurisdiction over all criminal cases including felonies, misdemeanors, and traffic matters. It also has jurisdiction over all civil cases including family law, probate, juvenile, and general civil matters.

The total new cases filed (404,192) in Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006 have increased about 10% over the past two fiscal periods from 371,653 in Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005 and 367,000 in Fiscal Year 2003 – 2004.

FISCAL YEAR 2005 – 2006 NEW CASES FILED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASE TYPES</th>
<th>NUMBER OF NEW CASES FILED</th>
<th>PERCENT OF FILINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Felonies</td>
<td>11,833</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Misdemeanors (non-traffic)</td>
<td>19,895</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Limited</td>
<td>48,844</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Unlimited</td>
<td>8,853</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Law</td>
<td>24,421</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probate/Mental Health</td>
<td>1,980</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Dependency</td>
<td>2,081</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency (felonies and misdemeanors)</td>
<td>4,244</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency (non-traffic infractions/misdemeanors)</td>
<td>5,462</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic (adult and juvenile)</td>
<td>297,646</td>
<td>63.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Claims</td>
<td>8,897</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlawful Detainer</td>
<td>10,036</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL FILINGS 404,192 100.0

SOURCE: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA, FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 COURT STATISTICS REPORT.
Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006 Court Operations and Services

JUDGES

ROLAND L. CANDEE, PRESIDING JUDGE (1/2006 – present)

DENNIS B. JONES, EXECUTIVE OFFICER (6/2006 – present)

CURT SODERLUND, CHIEF DEPUTY
EUGENE PIERACCI, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
CECILEAN WALLIN, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE

Gordon D. Schaber
Courthouse

CIVIL
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
Arbitration & Mediation
Civil Law & Motion
Civil Settlement Conference

CRIMINAL
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
Pretrial Services
Drug Court
Substance Abuse Treatment Court – Proposition 36
Drug Diversion
Leaves & Fishes Calendar
Domestic Violence Court

William R. Ridgeway
Family Relations Courthouse

FAMILY LAW
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
Family Settlement Conference
Family Law Facilitator’s Office
Self-Help/EZ-Legal Filing Kiosk
Family Court Services
Resource Referral Program
Restraining Orders/Workshops
Department of Child Support Services

DEPENDENCY
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
Mediation Services
Dependency Drug Court

PROBATE
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
Probate Clinic/Self-Help
Mediation Services

COURT ADMINISTRATION
Judicial Services
Personnel Admin.
Fiscal Services
Research and Evaluation
Management Information Systems
Facilities and General Services
Court Security

TRIAL SUPPORT
Jurly Services
Master Calendar
Interpreters
Court Reporters
Electronic Monitoring
Court Attorneys
Legal Research
Exhibits
Records Retention
Appeals

CAROL MILLER
Justice Center

TRAFFIC
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
Traffic Violator School Services
ePay-it Online Citation Payments

SMALL CLAIMS
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
E-Filing Services
Mediation
Small Claims Advisory Clinic

UNLAWFUL DETAINER
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
E-Filing Services
Mediation Services
Unlawful Detainer Legal Services

Juvenile Delinquency
Courthouse

JUVENILE
Public Service, Courtroom Support and Records Management
Informal Juvenile Court (non-traffic infractions and misdemeanors)
Delinquency Drug Court
Truancy Court
Youth Court
Court Locations

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS
Gordon D. Schaber County Courthouse
720 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 874-5522

FAMILY LAW, JUVENILE DEPENDENCY, PROBATE COURTS
William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse
3341 Power Inn Road
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 875-3400

TRAFFIC, SMALL CLAIMS, UNLAWFUL DETAINER COURTS
Carol Miller Justice Center
301 Bicentennial Circle
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 875-7354

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY COURT
B.T. Collins Juvenile Justice Center
9605 Kiefer Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 876-7753
Not even 100-plus degree weather could stop the dedication of the new Juvenile Delinquency Courthouse. The highly anticipated event culminated three years of commitment and hard work for all those involved. Then Presiding Judge, Michael Virga, welcomed the more than 300 guests and proudly introduced the Bella Vista High School Marching Band who opened the ceremony with the playing of the National Anthem. The Presentation of Colors was performed by the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 401. There were inspiring dedication speeches and well wishes by Chief Justice of California, Ronald George, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Don Nottoli and Roger Dickinson, Sacramento County Executive Officer, Terry Schutten and Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Kenneth Peterson. Once the dedication speeches and ribbon cutting ceremony concluded, guests were invited to tour the building.

The artwork for the new Courthouse was a result of the Art in Public Places program. Glass-enclosed cases were installed in the main entrance lobby for a rotating display of student artwork from local area high schools. The artwork, entitled, “Threshold, Fabric of Society,” is a tile mosaic carpet on the entry floor. Youth involved in the juvenile justice system were asked to submit words of inspiration for youth entering and exiting the courthouse. The sculpture in the main foyer was inspired by a Martin Luther King, Jr., quote, “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. What affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”
"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. What affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Reaching out to the Sacramento Community

The Community-Focused Court Planning Committee (CFCPC) chaired by Judge Trena Burger-Plavan, conducted focus groups in 2002 and 2003 to assess the issues and needs of the community concerning access and fairness issues. Representatives from each focus group were selected to become members of a Community Leaders’ Forum. The forty members meet annually and provide feedback and guidance to the CFCPC. From there an agenda of activities is developed. Last year proved to be a very busy one, as the court continued its outreach to the community. Some of the projects completed, included:

In January 2006, they launched the "Tip of the Day" Program. The court partnered with local radio stations to broadcast 64 weekly tips of the day. The tips are short, 20-30 second public service announcements that provide helpful information, suggestions and reminders primarily in traffic, civil, domestic violence, family law, and landlord/tenant matters. The program also reaches out to our diverse community by targeting stations that broadcast in foreign languages, such as Spanish, Fijian, Korean and Vietnamese. The tips are also posted weekly on the court’s Internet Web site at www.saccourt.com.

In February 2006, the Committee hosted the Community-Based Organization (CBO) training. The Committee targeted CBOs that work primarily with self-represented litigants and those who face barriers to the court (e.g., language barriers). There were over 60 participants, representing 34 CBOs, who were provided with overviews of court services and resources. Each participant also received an on-the-job court resource binder, filled with useful information. Judge Burger-Plavan summarized the day by saying, "We were pleased to have so many participants from the community. The enthusiasm of the participants and presenters created an atmosphere where there was an excellent sharing of information. The court will use this information to further enhance access to justice for Sacramento County residents."

In March 2006, the Committee hosted a dinner to commemorate the completion of the translation of the court’s How it Works brochures in the Tongan, Fijian and Samoan languages. The dinner was also a way to recognize and thank the many volunteers who worked on the translations. The court previously developed How it Works brochures in the Spanish, Hmong, Laotian, Russian, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese languages.
Accomplishments at a Glance

JULY 2005
The court launched the Recognition Committee, made up of court managers, supervisors, administrative and court staff. Their task was to design a recognition process and program that reinforces the mission, goals and values of the court. In its first year, the Committee developed and implemented the First Annual Outstanding Performance Awards.

AUGUST
Court staff developed and implemented a courtroom clerk internship/training program to both assist newly hired clerks and prospective courtroom clerks. The interns receive hands-on training, giving them a better understanding of the judicial process.

SEPTEMBER
The 2005 Veterans Stand Down Event, aimed at assisting homeless veterans with social and legal services, was held on September 16-18, at Camp Pollock in Sacramento. The event, in its 14th year, was a huge success. Judge Renard Shepard and 39 court staff volunteers, interviewed 259 homeless veterans representing the various military branches. The volunteers researched 659 cases and were able to resolve 451 them; 208 cases that required some additional research were set for later court dates.

OCTOBER
The Small Claims, Unlawful Detainers and Courtroom Support Units initiated a review of their interdependent processes with the goal of achieving more efficient workflow between them. The review resulted in enhanced communication and a better understanding of one unit’s impact upon the other.

NOVEMBER
The court participated in National Adoption Day, a collaborative effort with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Sheriff’s Department, Lilliput Children’s Services and Soroptimist International of Greater Sacramento.

DECEMBER
The Criminal Division collaborated with its justice partners and the court’s Reengineering Unit to launch Phase II of the Criminal Calendar Reconfiguration Project. The committee focused its efforts on the consolidation of the misdemeanor home court departments in an effort to streamline the various related calendars.
JANUARY 2006

The court, in collaboration with the Center for Youth Citizenship, announced the launching of Sacramento Action, a multi-faceted youth court and service program designed to help increase youth confidence, trust and involvement in the judicial system, government and our communities. The goal for the program is to increase youth understanding of and engagement with the courts and the law and to expand services to schools and communities by connecting teachers, law students, lawyers, judges and other community leaders.

The Analytical Services Unit developed and implemented online and interactive management reports for use by judges, executive staff and managers. The collective reports, known as the "Dashboard" because of its racing car motif, are published monthly and provide workload data and some basic performance measures in each of the court areas. These reports enable the court to quickly assess how the various areas are performing and to determine whether adjustments are needed.

FEBRUARY

The management team and staff at the Carol Miller Justice Center honored and recognized over 100 attorneys who donated their time to serve as "temporary judges" in the Small Claims and Traffic areas. The Honorable David W. Abbott was the Key Note Speaker for the event.

The court implemented its new Epay-it system which allows traffic citations issued in Sacramento County to be paid via the Internet using a major credit card. Citizens can access the Web site at https://www.epay-it.com/sac/.

MARCH

The Criminal and Family Law Divisions assumed the responsibility of data entry of all court-ordered restraining orders in the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETs). By law, the orders must be entered into CLETs within 24 hours from the date of issuance.

APRIL

The court collaborated with the Sacramento County Bar Association to host the 2nd Annual Law Day Poster and Essay Contest to commemorate Law Day 2006. The contest was open to all Sacramento County high school students. There were over 125 submissions and six eventual winners.

The court celebrated National Bring Your Children to Work Day on April 27th. Each facility hosted its own unique event, and in total about 100 children participated. At the Juvenile Delinquency Courthouse, the children met K9 Deputy Ado and were treated to a display of his search skills; at the
Traffic Court, they observed the speeding trial for the Road Runner (complete with a court interpreter who distinguished one "meep meep" from another); and finally, at the Downtown Courthouse, the children contemplated the case of Humpty Dumpty, was it an accident or a homicide? The children also heard judges, commissioners and referees talk about their roles in the court, and court staff, deputy sheriff officers and probation officers helped out by giving tours of patrol cars, holding cells and courtrooms.

The Jury Assembly Room got an "extreme makeover," including, more seating, a paint job and new carpeting. The front counter was changed to help expedite and ease the juror check-in process, and new signage was posted to provide instructions and directions. The renovations were completed in time for Jury Appreciation Week, May 8th – 12th.

MAY

In May 2006, the court hosted the California Court Association’s (CCA) Annual Convention. CCA provides professional development through education and training to its 6,000 members. They sponsor and host workshops on court-related and career-related topics. The workshops afford court employees from around the state the opportunity to network with each other and to exchange ideas with their counterparts from other courts.

The court launched the "Resource Referral Program," designed to help parents comply with court orders issued in Family Law matters. A resource specialist works on-site to help clients access services, such as individual and group counseling, supervised visitation, drug and alcohol counseling, domestic violence counseling, etc.

JUNE

The Public Education Team (PET) Project endeavored to improve the quality and readability of court forms, pamphlets and other public education materials in all areas of the court. This required staff to review, revise and update all of the court’s informational and instructional materials disseminated to the public.
In May, the Presiding Judge and Executive Team announced the recipients of the 1st Annual Outstanding Performance Award. The purpose of the award was to honor employees who achieved and maintained excellent work performance for one year. Supervisors and managers were asked to submit nominations based on the following criteria:

- **Exceptional Work Performance** — Nominees take pride in their work and how they impact others. They are team players who encourage collaboration and adapt to change. Quality, quantity, timeliness, dependability and criticality of work are factors which will be considered in the selection process.

- **Customer Service Focus** — Nominees respond to internal or external customers promptly and accurately. They anticipate customer needs and exceed them.

- **Commitment to Court Values** — Nominees embody all the characteristics/values identified by the court, including: Openness, Integrity/Honesty, Fairness, Professionalism, etc.

- **Exceptional Technical & Interpersonal Skills** — Nominees are continually striving to improve in every aspect of their career. They are able to handle multiple priorities and maintain a high level of quality. They communicate with respect and are open to feedback.

There were 25 nominees representing all areas of the court. A celebration breakfast was held in their honor in April 2006. The event included reading excerpts from the nominating letters and a short biography of each nominee.

From there, the Recognition Committee reviewed all of the nominations and forwarded 12 nominees to the court’s Executive Team. The eventual recipients were:

- **Brenda Brower**, Court Supervisor, Traffic Division
- **Neriza Del Rosario**, Deputy Clerk III, Probate Division
- **Debbie Moynier**, Administrative Services Officer II, Facilities Division
- **Chris Stewart**, Project Manager, Management Information Systems
- **Kelly Sullivan**, Courtroom Clerk

The five recipients were chosen because they were known for consistently going “above and beyond” in their work. They were known for their leadership abilities and spearheading major projects. They have suggested significant changes to policies and procedures, and they have volunteered their time in some manner in furtherance of the court’s goals.

The recipients were honored at a luncheon with Presiding Judge Roland L. Candee and the Executive Team.
JODY PATEL, COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RECEIVES JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION AWARD

Chief Justice of California, Ronald George presented the Judicial Administration Award to Court Executive Officer, Jody Patel. Ms. Patel was selected for the award because of her demonstrated leadership and advocacy in state court administration and for advancing the goals of the Judicial Council. She was cited for making significant contributions to court administration in promoting access, fairness, diversity and quality of justice.

Upon her acceptance of the award at the Statewide Judicial Branch Conference, Ms. Patel remarked, “Recognition such as this is not possible without the contribution of the organization as a whole. This award is truly a reflection of the hard work, dedication and support of the management team, staff and judicial officers of the Sacramento Superior Court.”

JUDGE JONES RECEIVES THE ABOTA HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

In May 2006, Judge Talmadge Jones was recognized for his community efforts with the Abota Humanitarian of the Year Award. The award is provided to a member of the bench or bar who best exemplifies someone who is devoted to the promotion of human welfare and advancement of social reforms. Judge Jones was awarded a $2,500 gift to be donated to a charity of his choice. He picked one near and dear to his heart, the Juvenile Court Special Activities Account. The fund, monitored by judges of the Juvenile Court, helps foster children.

JUDGE VASQUEZ RECEIVES THE 2006 FRANCES NEWELL CARR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On May 1, 2006, Judge Emily Vasquez was presented with the 2006 Frances Newell Carr Achievement Award at the Law Day Celebration sponsored by the Sacramento County Bar Association. The award was created by the Women Lawyers of Sacramento and recognizes individuals who have served their community, achieved professional excellence in their careers, assisted women in pursuit of their legal careers and who have personally advanced opportunities for women in the law. Judge Vasquez was cited for her dedication to the judiciary and the legal profession and for her many accomplishments, activities and numerous honors and awards for community service.
Judicial Appointments

Judge Eugene L. Balonon was appointed to the Sacramento Bench in September 2005. Prior to his appointment, Judge Balonon served as Executive Director of the Gambling Control Commissioner since 2004. He previously served as Chief Deputy and Director of the California State Lottery and has over 12 years of service as a deputy district attorney in the Sacramento County District Attorney’s office.

Judge Balonon earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Lincoln Law School and his Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Sacramento.

Judge Raoul Thorbourne was appointed to the Sacramento Bench in October 2005. He previously served as a Commissioner with the court since 1997. Prior to coming to the court, he served as a deputy attorney general for five years and an attorney for the Department of Industrial Relations and the National Labor Relations Board.

Judge Thorbourne earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University.

Judge Michael Sweet was appointed to the Sacramento Bench in December 2005. He previously served as a judge in the Yolo County Superior Court since 1998. Prior to becoming a judge, he served as deputy legislative secretary in the Office of the Governor from 1996 – 1998.

Judge Sweet earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Lincoln Law School of Sacramento and Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, San Jose.
Judges of the Sacramento Superior Court – 2006


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PRESIDING JUDGE
Honorable Roland L. Candee (1/2006 – present)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Dennis B. Jones (6/2006 – present)

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COVER ART
The artwork for the new Juvenile Courthouse was a result of the Art in Public Places program, a project of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. The artwork on the cover was one of four murals created by artist, Ed Matalon. The series, entitled, “Navigating your Dreams through Education,” are intended to be contemplative images that are complex and revealing upon study and reflections.